

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 748

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Iris Thompson upon being named a Super Senior by the *Morgan County News*.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee relies upon the knowledge, strength, and energy of our senior citizens who enrich our families with their love and guidance, serve as neighbors who support our community, and remind us that kindness and patience always prevail; and

WHEREAS, all senior citizens, whether actively involved in business and community affairs or quietly devoted to their families and neighbors, deserve our gratitude and respect, as they have shared with us the acquired wisdom of the ages and have shown us the meaning of integrity; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of our State's senior citizens and the many contributions they have made to our society, the *Morgan County News* staff has nominated three Super Seniors in Morgan County, paying tribute to an outstanding group of Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Iris Thompson is one such estimable individual who was recently named a Super Senior; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Thompson resides in Petros and serves with acumen and alacrity as a Head Start teacher, a position which she has served since 1967; and

WHEREAS, a 1955 graduate of Central High School in Wartburg, Iris met her future husband, Billy, in 1952 and, upon her graduation from high school, they went to Georgia and got married; and

WHEREAS, she began college at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville but graduated from Roane State Community College in 2002 with an associate's degree in early childhood education, at the age of sixty-four; and

WHEREAS, at Head Start, Mrs. Thompson works with children ages three to five, teaching several important health skills such as brushing teeth and washing hands; and

WHEREAS, they also measure weight and height and take the students for dental and doctor visits if necessary; and

WHEREAS, Iris's late husband was an avid supporter of her work at Head Start; he served as a special volunteer and Iris has a plaque in her living room in honor of his twenty years of outstanding service to the program; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Thompson is an active and devout member of her local Baptist church; and

WHEREAS, her numerous accomplishments aside, she is deeply devoted to her family and she always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she is perhaps most proud of the love and companionship she shared for many blissful years with her husband, Billy, until his passing; and

WHEREAS, Iris Thompson is the proud matriarch of two daughters; Teresa Lowe and Kathy Bunch; four grandchildren, Josh Lowe, Amy Russell, Chris Byrge, and Boone Davidson; and five great-grandchildren, Blake and Bethany Lowe, Hayden and Kambrie Byrge, and Kateri Russell; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens are part of a timeless generation which serves as a treasured link to a community's history and traditions, and their positive contributions of courage, hard work, and unwavering devotion to family and community are immeasurable; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize Tennessee's senior citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the *Morgan County News* staff in honoring and commending Iris Thompson upon being recognized as a Super Senior, thank Mrs. Thompson

for her tireless devotion to serving the good people of Morgan County, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.